

Sultan of Tunis. His attitude, far removed from that of the mere Crusader, is well hit off by a story which is given by an Arab historian.¹ Baldwin, King of Jerusalem, having written to Roger urging him to join in conquering Moslem Africa, Roger replied saying:

If the other Pranks should come here, I should have to supply them with armies, and ships for crossing. If they conquered the land and remained there, they would get the trade in the necessities of life out of Sicilian hands into theirs; and I should lose the receipts from the corn trade to them. Suppose their enterprise failed; they must return here; I should then have to expect hostile attacks in return; and trade and friendship between us and Africa would cease. Better to wait until we ourselves are strong enough to conquer Africa.

The government of Roger I. made no distinctions of privilege or civil right between Latins, Moslems, and Greeks, but little as he designed any sudden swamping of the two latter races in the island it was inevitable that the Catholic-Latin element should rapidly increase in numbers and importance after the conquest. The occupation of Sicily was decisive in the steady setback to the Byzantine and Mohammedan influence in the

Mediterranean of which the eleventh
century saw
the beginning. In the island itself the
Saracens

•Ibnel Athir, in Amari, *Bibliotheca
Arabo-Sicula*, i., p. 541.
He gives the date as 1099, but
incorrectly since Baldwin was
not crowned till Christmas, noo.